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leaving a garrison in his rear. The re-embarkation took place on the 29th same month, at 4, P.M. in some confusion, being apprehensive of an attack on their rear*. September 1773, a most tremendous gust of wind from the S.W. passed through a part of this district, tearing out of root several large trees, and blowing down hayricks, &c. May 1st, 1778, the famous Paul Jones, in the Ranger, arrived in this bay; the Drake frigate lying here, proceeding to reconnoitre, a desperate engagement ensued; when the Captain of the Drake being killed, and his second mortally wounded, she was forced to strike to this noted adventurer. In 1798, this castle was a state prison, and continued so for some years after. 1801, by the act of union, which took place this year, the corporation only returns one burgess to serve in parliament. S.M.S.

* Thurot's squadron was all captured on the 28th of the same month, by Captain Elliot, off the Isle of Mann; after a smart action of an hour and a half, in which Commodore Thurot was killed. His watch, a single cased gold one, is at present in possession of a gentleman near Belfast.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF JOS. DOMBEY, TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF M. DELEUZE.

THE names of literary men who acquire a reputation by their writings, descend to posterity, together with their discoveries; and should their contemporaries deny them justice, or envy seek to obscure their deserts, still their works remain a durable monument, and will at last establish their proper rank in literature. The history of the lives of such, though useful to point out the steps by which they advance to knowledge, and to diffuse more widely the general results of their labours, is not necessary to their fame.

Joseph Dombey was born at Macon on the 22d of February 1742. We have not been anxious to collect anecdotes of his youth; suffice it to say, that he took the degree of doctor of physic at Montpellier; in which city he first acquired a passion for natural history, and more especially botany, which he studied under M. Gouan. In stature he was tall and well made. His constitution was strong. His character naturally full of vivacity and gaiety, and thoughtless of either fortune or fame, he devoted himself with equal ardour to study and to pleasure. An enemy to all constraint, and considering his patrimony as sufficient for his demands, he was totally negligent of his affairs. Amiable and generous, he mingled with society without calculating the expense or loss of time. The morrow with him was ever a distant period.

Seemingly occupied during winter solely with the pleasures of the town, as soon as spring reanimated vegetation, he was attracted to the country by the flowers; in search of these he travelled through the southern provinces, and along the sea coasts, and when they were no longer to be found in the plains, he ascended the mountains, and staid there till driven away by the snow. For several months no one heard speak of him, nor was it known where he could be found. As long as his money lasted, he used it to facilitate his journeys; but when it was gone he knew how to do without it, travelling on foot, and living with the frugality of a hermit, till an opportunity offered of borrowing more; when, reckoning that he should soon have wherewithal to repay, he would, without hesitation, give exhorbitant interest. Continuing thus to spend without calculation, when the time of payment came he found himself harrassed by his debts, and again had recourse to ruinous expedients for raising money. To this thoughtlessness he joined a most delicate sense of honour: his word was a sacred engagement. Unsuspicious and disinterested, his commerce with the world was easy and mild; but to this mildness was joined a firm-

ness, a bravery, and even a sort of pride suitable to a man who knew how to respect himself.

With a view to his proficiency in botany he removed to Paris in 1772, and on his arrival there presented to M. Bernard de Juissieu a very fine herbarium of the Pyrenees. He attended the lectures of this professor, as well as those of M. Lemonnier, and attached himself particularly to M. Thouin, all of whom entertained the highest idea of his talents and integrity. J. J. Rousseau, weary of a fame so fatal to his repose, was at this time seeking to console himself with the study of botany. This philosopher, meeting by accident with Dombey, was so much pleased with his frankness, and especially with his talking to him about nothing but plants, that he was desirous of having him for a companion in his botanical excursions, and conceived for him an intimate friendship.

In 1775, Juissieu being applied to by the controller-general, M. Turgot, for a botanist to go to Peru, in order to search for such useful plants as might be naturalized in Europe, recommended Dombey as every way fit for the undertaking, and the minister desired to see him; but being at that time ranging over the Alps, on his return from a journey to Berne, where he had been to pay a visit to the great Haller, he he was not immediately to be found. M. Thouin addressed several letters to him, at different places; and the one directed to St. Claude finding him there on the 13th of August 1775, he set off immediately for Paris, presented himself to M. Turgot, and received orders to hold himself in readiness to depart for Madrid, from whence he was to proceed to Peru. He immediately procured whatever he thought necessary, settled with his creditors, to whom he secured a part of the salary of 3000 livres allotted him, and was extremely impatient to be gone; but as the necessity for making the project agreeable to the court of Spain occasioned a delay till the autumn of the following year, this time he employed in making himself acquainted with every branch of natural history, and more particularly with whatever related to the objects of his voyage.

He arrived at Madrid on the 5th of November 1776, where he found the phlegmatic character of the persons with whom he had to deal, entirely opposite to his own, their indolence ill suited to his impatience, and their want of confidence altogether intolerable. The minister for the Indies, M. de Galves, wishing to join with him some Spanish botanists to collect for Spain, as he should do for France, two pupils of M. Ortega and two draftsmen were appointed for this purpose, with a salary of 10,000 livres each. Instructions were drawn up, by which even Dombey's pursuits were to be regulated; for he was charged to make experiments upon the culture of cinnamon, supposed at that time to be indigenous in Peru, and to apply himself to several researches concerning the mines. On account of the delay occasioned by this arrangement, the expedition was not ready to sail for ten months longer; yet in spite of all the solicitations of Dombey, many necessaries were neglected to be procured, and he was to furnish at his own expense, paper, instruments, &c. These and other articles cost him three times as much as they would have done at Paris; and although he lived with great economy, he found his income inadequate to his expenses at Madrid. His salary was doubled, but still fell much below that of his companions. This was a subject of uneasiness; but having arrived at Cadiz on the 17th of September 1776, all the difficulties and dangers of the voyage vanished from his sight: his thoughts hurried him across the Atlantic, and he already enjoyed, in prospect, the pleasure in seeing the plants of the new world, and of making himself useful to his country and to Spain. He embarked on board the Peruano of sixty guns, commanded by M. de Cordua, on the 20th of October 1777, and arrived at the port of Callao on the 7th of April 1778. The next day he went to Lima, where he was very well received by Don Emanuel de Guirrior, the vice-roy of Peru.

At the sight of the ancient kingdom of the Incas, his enthusiasm redoubled; he contemplated at a distance the summits of the Cordilleras: he was however detained several months at Lima. In this city it never rains, but, in the winter season a continual fog ob-

scures the sun and nourishes vegetation, and by the end of the spring all is dry and scorched up. Dombey employed this time in collecting seeds, not from off the plants, but from the repositories of the ants in the sand, where the want of moisture prevented them from germinating.

M. de Bordenave, canon of Lima, an old friend of M. de Juissieu, pressed him to accept of board and lodging at his house; but this, although a great resource in a country where every thing is so dear, he refused, rather than separate himself from his companions, with whom, in the spring, he undertook a journey along the coasts, as far as the line near to Quito. The travellers were exposed to great danger, from which they escaped only by their courage, being attacked by a band of runaway negroes, of whom they killed one, and took three prisoners. No notice was taken of this event at Lima.

Dombey procured in this journey a great many plants, and other objects of curiosity, and some extremely rare antiquities, such as the vases found in the tombs of the ancient Peruvians, and a dress of the Incas. He superintended the making of 300 drawings, many of them of new genera; but he could not obtain a copy even of the representations of the plants he had named in honour of his patrons and friends. It was not upon this occasion only that he felt the art of design to be one of the most essential requisites to a naturalist, particularly to a traveller.

On his return to Lima, Dombey, learning that the Buen-Consejo was about to sail for Cadiz, wished to seize this opportunity of sending his collection to Europe. The number of his specimens was very considerable, having preserved twelve of each species. Of these he made two herbariums; one for France, and the other for the king of Spain. He sent also the vases and the ancient dress, which he begged M. d'Angivillers to present to the king of France; several specimens of minerals, and thirty-eight pounds of platina, designed for the cabinets of the king, the Academy, and M. Sage; a packet of seeds of the Quinoa*, &c. He also addressed to M. de Galvez a memoir on the pretended cinnamon tree of the neighbourhood of Quito, which he proved to be not the true cinnamon of Ceylon, but another species of Laurus *(Laurus quixos,* Lam. Encyc.) not applicable to the same purposes, and therefore not worth attempting to cultivate; and a memoir upon a cruel disease very common in Peru, which he attributes to the abuse there made of pepper *(Capsicum annuum)* of the pubescent winter-cherry *(Physalis pubescens)* and of the love-apple *(Solanum Lycopersicum.)*

In April 1779 he received an order from the viceroy to repair to Ceuchin, to analyse the mineral waters. After having fulfilled this commission at his own expense, he advanced into the province of Tarma, on the other side of the Cordilleras, and followed the torrents which run into the Maragnon, or River of the Amazons. In this canton the country is mountainous, and the soil so variable, that every valley produces a different set of plants; but the precipices, the height of the mountains, and the sudden changes from heat to cold, render botanizing both troublesome and dangerous. He next proceeded to Huanuco, where he arrived in the beginning of May 1780. This town is the last of the Spanish settlements. Further on are vast forests, where the Cinchona grows in abundance, though not known before to be found any where but in Loxa. The Spaniards had indeed been informed of this the year before; but it was very important to verify the fact, and to determine whether the species were the same as the officinal bark. Mules, servants, Indian guides, and provisions, the same as for a voyage by sea, were requisite to botanize in these forests, so impenetrable by the trees being tied together by several kinds of climbing plants, that a passage can only be made by the hatchet. For every species a tree

* *Chenopodium Quinoa* L. This plant is cultivated in Peru and Chili: the leaves are eaten like spinach; and the seeds, which Dombey assures us are nearly as good as rice, form the principal nourishment of the people. It is an annual, and would therefore succeed in France; but unfortunately the seeds sent to M. Thouin could not be sown till two years after they were gathered, and consequently would not grow.

must be felled, often two, because most of them are dioicous. In these thick forests the heat is so suffocating, for want of the circulation of air, as to occasion the greatest inconvenience; speedily spoiling the salted provisions, and filling the biscuits full of insects. The travellers had established the depôt of their collection at the little post of Cochero, where nothing was to be procured: nevertheless, they would have prolonged their stay, had they not received information that two hundred savages were on their way to attack and pillage them; to escape from whom it was necessary to set out in the middle of the night, to cross over the precipices, in order to reach Huanuco, from whence Dombey returned to Lima to procure assistance. The two servants he had been obliged to take with him cost him more than his salary, and he laid out in articles he had purchased more money than had been given him; and although M. Necker had ordered him 10,000 livres extra pay, this whole sum was absorbed in the expense of package only. His companions had a salary of 10,000 livres each, yet he had been obliged to lend them 8000. It may be asked whence he could obtain these resources:—let us see how this enigma is to be solved.

I have already said that Dombey carried to Lima the produce of his botanical excursions. Here he occupied himself in writing the descriptions, of which he always made duplicates at least; in arranging his specimens, and in collecting every thing curious or interesting; yet all these objects to which he devoted himself with such ardour, did not employ the whole of his time. He and his companions were at first well received; but in a country where luxury is excessive, where riches only are held in estimation, and the sciences so very little known, men who travelled on foot to collect herbs were soon held in derision and contempt. Some few only, to whom he had letters of recommendation, treated them with respect. There existed a still more unfavourable prejudice against Dombey; for the writings of the French philosophers snd literati having scandalized the Spanish clergy, every Frenchman passed for a heretic. "I am very regular in conforming to all religious customs," says he, in one of his letters; "but notwithstanding this, the Inquisition would not let me alone a single day, if I had not been sent by the king." He conducted himself, however, so prudently, that he soon conciliated both esteem and consideration. He was a physician, and visited the sick; and the prejudices against him did not prevent him being regarded as more skilful than the physicians of the country. He visited alike the rich and the poor, without ever accepting of any fee: he distributed medicines to the poor gratis, and frequently gave them money also. If he worked all the day, at night he went into company, always avoiding going to the same houses as his companions.

The Peruvian ladies are very agreeable, addicted to pleasure, but badly educated. Dombey did not seek their society in private, but paid his court to them in their public assemblies. Play is their principal occupation, and to make one of their party is the best way to be well received. As they attach but little value to money, they of course play carelessly. Dombey, whilst he gave up his time to their amusement, played at cards in a gentleman-like disinterested manner, but with attention: he was successful; and it is singular enough, that a passion so often ruinous, and almost always an enemy to study, was to him an useful resource, and even enabled him to procure objects in natural history. Thus, by conforming to the customs of the country, and distinguishing himself by a respectful gallantry towards the ladies, Dombey was soon in high repute. The frivolous found in him one of the most amiable of men; to those who knew how to appreciate merit he recommended himself by his manner and his knowledge; in fine, by his easy address, his open character, and the services he rendered, he made himself friends, who offered him money whenever he stood in need of it, and would not be repaid till after his return to France. One of these lent him at one time 40,000 livres. At the same time he was no economist: when he gained he paid his debts, he made new acquisitions, and the surplus, if any, he gave to the unfortunate. Thus it was that at one time he was seen living

in splendour, then again not able to keep one servant; but labouring with the same zeal in every situation.

If the Spanish government is justly accused of being often suspicious; if the people are a prey to indolence, and debased by superstition, there are in this nation, perhaps more than in any other, instances of men possessing elevated and generous souls, animated by every character of greatness, and who disregard every sacrifice they can make: there are among them enlightened men, who set the higher value upon knowledge, and are the more sensible of the advantages arising therefrom, in proportion as it is of more rare occurrence. In this class Dombey found admirers and friends, who thought themselves happy to offer him services, opening to him their purses, and co-operating with him in doing good; and we shall soon see that many parts of his conduct might well excite their enthusiasm.

Having procured the necessary funds, and packed up his collection, Dombey wished to return to Huanuco, where he had left his companions; a a journey at this time full of danger, all the provinces about Lima being in a flame. The Indian Tapac-maro, pretending to be a descendant of the Incas, had put himself at the head of a considerable party, and drawn a number of villages into his rebellion. This war had already occasioned the destruction of several thousand lives; and the loss of the whole of Peru was dreaded. Notwithstanding this alarming state of affairs, Dombey continued his pursuits, and arriving at Huanuco the latter end of December 1780, he found the inhabitants plunged in the greatest distress and consternation, and reduced to extremities, having neither food nor money. He immediately waited on the president of the general council, and offered him the sum of 1000 piastres, and twenty loads of corn, for the support of the troops. The council and all the military officers assembled; when Dombey, renewing his offer, added that of raising two regiments at his own expense, putting himself at the head of them, and marching against the rebels. He was heard with enthusiasm; and although his offer was not accepted, the Spanish officers were roused by the liberality of a Frenchman, and engaged to furnish the thousand piastres, and to maintain the troops at their own expense, each in his turn. Thanks were voted to Dombey by the council, by the officers, the magistrates, and the bishop; they acknowledged that to him they owed the preservation of the city, and perhaps the termination of the war; in which perished, before the capture of Tapoc-Maro, a hundred thousand persons. Dombey, however, resolved not to profit by the refusal of his gift, sent it to the hospital of St. Jean-de-Dieu, to be distributed amongst the poor. On his departure to Huanuco he was accompanied of the inhabitants; but unfortunately the glory with which he was covered could not fail to excite envy.

On his return to Lima he received the most afflicting intelligence. The ship Buen-Consejo had been taken by the English. All the collections had been purchased at Lisbon, on account of the Spanish government, and M. Ortega had presented to his Catholic majesty the vases, the dress of the Incas, and other valuable articles intended for the king of France. Nothing had been forwarded to Paris but the duplicates of the dried plants and seeds. As the vessel had been taken by the English, and the property bought by Spain, the king of France had certainly no valid claim upon it; yet a a proceeding so opposite to the elevated sentiments of Dombey could not fail to wound his feelings. He did not however show any discontent; but when those who had profited by his labours dared to add reproaches, he repelled them with indignant firmness. "The minister for the Indies," said the viceroy to him, "has desired me to inform you that the king of Spain thought it strange that the herbarium designed for him was not so considerable as that for the king of France."—"And has not the French minister also written to your Excellency to complain that my Spanish companions have not transmitted to Paris copies of their drawings and duplicates of what they have collected?"—"No, certainly; but the Spanish gentlemen do not owe any thing to France."—"And what, sir, do I owe to Spain? Does the king of Spain

pay me any salary? You may answer, that since it is demanded of me, I will never from this time send any thing more." The viceroy, who possessed as much gentleness as dignity, far from resenting this pride, endeavoured to sooth him, and persuaded him to write civilly to the minister for the Indies; and Dombey, though he resisted unjust commands, instantly yielded to these polite solicitations, and continued to send to Spain duplicates of each plant, only taking the precaution to demand receipts, that he might have it in his power, to produce to his court the proof of his proceedings.

Exhausted with fatigue, our traveller was now desirous of returning to Europe, but he wished first to visit Chili; a country the more interesting to him, because the climate, being very similar to that of France, afforded hopes that its vegetable productions might be more easily naturalized. Having filled twenty cases with his collections, and deposited them at Lima, with directions to have them embarked after the peace, he prepared to set off for Chili, a journey requiring enormous expenses, as he could not dispense with his two servants, whom he had instructed, and who required great wages. Money was necessary, as well to defray the expense of his journey and his residence in the country, as for the purchase of the curiosities he might meet with; and such was the zeal he had inspired, that 50,000 livres were offered him. He also had letters of recommendation to the most distinguished characters, and arrived at Conception in the beginning of the year 1782.

In this city a contagious disease was at that time making dreadful ravages; many had perished; every one shut himself up in his house; and the sick were abandoned. Dombey was advised to avoid the danger. What indeed had a botanist to fear, whose employment was to ramble over the country, and in a climate so mild that it was easy to avoid every suspected house? But Dombey was not only a botanist, he was likewise a physician, and his humanity prompted him to brave every danger. He accordingly settled in the city, and, excluding himself from every house where the contagion had not reached, dedicated his whole time to visiting the poor, furnishing them with food, medicines, vinegar, sugar, beds, and even nurses at 5 livres a day. He soon found that the distemper was not so fatal when treated properly, and he devoted himself with indefatigable courage. When it was observed that he cured others without being infected himself, confidence returned, the sick were taken better care of, and in the end the epidemic totally disappeared. Dombey was now regarded as a messenger from heaven: he received thanks in the name of the whole country, and was offered the place of physician to the city, with a salary of 10.000 livres. Nor were other means neglected to detain him; for Dombey having regarded with much interest a beautiful lady, and very rich, who was herself not insensible to his merit, the bishop of La Conception insisted upon her marrying him. Although more inclined to the match from the feelings of his heart than even from the prospect of riches and reputation, yet reflecting that this marriage would prevent his returning to his own country, and offering there the fruits of his labours, he resisted the temptation, and to avoid the struggle left La Conception and repaired to St. Jago. This determination he was sensible he might live to regret; but he considered it as a duty to fulfil the mission intrusted to him. Would to God he had yielded to these solicitations of gratitude! Perhaps he had then been still living; he might have sent his collections from Chili to Europe, and had been spared the pain of seeing himself deprived of of the greater part of the fruits of his labour; had escaped being a prey to the vexations which embittered his latter days, and nearly deprived him of his reason; nor would he then have witnessed those scenes of terror and barbarity which drove him from France; he had not in fine perished miserably without relation or friend to soothe his sorrow.—But let us not anticipate events. Dombey departed for St. Jago after having filled twenty cafes, of which six consisted of dried plants, the rest of minerals, shells, and a great number of designs that he had caused to be executed.

During his residence in this city,

the reputation he had acquired procured him from the Spanish government a sufficiently troublesome commission. The quicksilver mines of Huanca-Velica having been ruined by the falling in of the earth, and those of Almaden not furnishing a sufficient supply for working the gold mines of Peru and Chili, *Le regent de l' audience* of Chili received orders to cause others to be sought for. Dombey was applied to, and set off for the Cordilleras to examine the old mine of Coquimbo, which had been abandoned above fifty years: this he caused to be cleared out, and a plan taken of it. He discovered at Xarilla a mine two leagues in extent; and brought back specimens of the ore, the assay of which left no room to doubt of the great importance of the discovery. These inquiries having led him to examine with care the course of the mines and the mode of working them, the signs by which they may be detected and the best means of rendering them productive, he addressed a memoir on the subject to the court of Spain. At the same time he pointed out a new mine of gold, and mineralogists were sent into Chili in compliance with his instructions.

In this excursion into the Cordilleras he had to travel a hundred leagues, and the labour to which he submitted nearly deprived him of his hearing. He expended 15,000 livres, the reimbursement of which he refused, alleging that he was happy to sacrifice his time and labour to be useful to Spain, as he thought by so doing he seconded the intentions of France; but that he could render no account of his expenses, except to the government which sent him. He had done the same with regard to his expenses in the analysis of the mineral waters of Caxatumbo.

In the midst of these labours his botanical pursuits were not neglected. He found in Chili one of the finest trees in the world, observed before by Molina, and imperfectly described under the name of *Pinus araucaria*, It is fit for masts, having a trunk 150 feet long, and straight as an arrow. M. Daubenton has spoken of it in his Memoirs of Agriculture, and called it *Basilaire*. Lamarck has described it under the name of Dombeya, and Juissieu under that of Araucaria. Dombey having pointed out to the Spaniards the use that might be made of this tree, and proved that a vessel which had been dismasted had been repaired with it at a small expense, the minister of the Indies gave him the thanks of his Catholic majesty. It is to be regretted that the seeds brought into Europe have not germinated, as there is reason to believe that the tree would succeed in the open ground in the southern departments of France, and that it would be very useful. The nuts are good to eat. Cones, male catkins, and planks of the wood, are preserved in the museum*.

* From trials lately made both in Chili and in Portugal, it has been found that the Araucania is not so proper for masts as was at first supposed, the wood being too soft. Two other species of Araucaria have been discovered: the one, a native of Norfolk Island, is actually cultivated in the Kew garden, under the name of Columbia, the beauty of these trees tempting the English to bestow on the genus the name of the discoverer of the New World.—AUTHOR. (It is L'Heritier who called it *Columbia*.—EDIT.)

To be concluded in our next.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

BLACK MONDAY.

HANMER'S Chronicle gives the following account of the origin of this name.

Thorne Castle is now Cullen's wood; 'tis now an old stump of a castle just above ground, scarcely two miles from the city of Dublin. This City, by reason of a great mortality, being much wasted and desolate, the inhabitants, after their country manner upon holydays, some for love of fresh air, and others for pastime, pleasure and gaming' sake, flocked out from thence to Cullen's wood. Upon Monday in Easter-week, the Burns and